AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A system allowing a user terminal in a network to simultaneously access a plurality of radio based access networks of diverse access technologies, said radio access networks being adapted for connection to a common backbone network, the system comprising:

a plurality of access selection adapters, each one being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, and each one associated with a respective radio access network and each one structured for receiving access dependent information from its respective access network and for mapping said radio access dependent information to access technology independent status information; and

an access selector being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, and structured to interact with one or more applications resident in the user terminal and to interact with each access adapter for selection of an access network based on an individual QoS profile associated with each application and on said access technology independent status information.

2. (Previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selection adapters are structured to use a protocol spanning the access networks, the backbone network and the access selector, thus allowing

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interoperation between an application and an end terminal connected to the backbone network and making the access selection adapters transparent to the application.

3. (Previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the radio access dependent information is provided by an access manager in the respective access selection adapter and is signaled between the respective access selection adapter and its corresponding access network on a spanning layer protocol.

4. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 3, wherein the radio access dependent information comprises any of the following attributes: signal strength, signal quality, delay, service precedence, reliability, mean throughput and peak throughput, bit error ratio, control load parameters, media description parameters, packet format information, expected delay bound, packet loss ratio, bit error rate (BER), packet handling priority, packet loss ratio (PLR), and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the radio access dependent information further comprises cost and/or available bandwidth.

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6. (Previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 4, wherein at least one access selection adapter comprises:

a QoS controller for generating the status information by interacting with a corresponding application;

an access manager for handling access to its associated radio access network, and for initiating and setting up a radio bearer therein; and

a translator for receiving as inputs said radio access dependent information access and map them to said access technology independent information (wireless hints).

7. (Previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 2, wherein the protocol spanning the backbone network, the access networks, the access adaptors, the access selector, and the applications are IPv4 or IPv6 protocol suite.

8. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, ~~further~~ wherein the user terminal comprises a database containing configuration data for the applications.

9. (Previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selector is structured to perform link independent QoS related software processes for access procedures.

10. (Previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 9, wherein said QoS related software processes comprise any one or more of an NSIS (Next Step In IP Signaling) process for radio access independent QoS signaling, a layer 2-link status process for radio access independent link status information and acquisition, and an resource handling (RH) process for radio access independent resource handling.

11. (Previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 10, wherein said QoS related software processes further comprise one or both of a radio access independent FHO (Fast Handover) process for handling of mobility, and a CARD (Candidate Access Router) process for acquisition of candidate access routers.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selector is connected to the backbone network, and is connected to the access networks.

14. (Previously presented) A method of providing simultaneous access to a plurality of radio based access networks from a moving system that

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comprises a user terminal with a plurality of diverse applications, the method comprising:

the user terminal signaling a QoS profile, comprising QoS parameter values, which an application requires, to an access selector being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, at a start of said application;

signaling from each available radio access network via a corresponding individual access adapter, which is a network entity provided separate from the user terminal and which is associated with said available access network, to the access selector radio access dependent information and status information about that access network's resources;

the access selector identifying a radio access network to be used for the application by executing an access selection algorithm which based on the QoS parameters signaled in the QoS profile and the status information of the available radio access networks identifies the radio access network;

the access selector communicating the radio access network selection to the user terminal; and

the user terminal instructing the access adaptor of the selected radio access network to set up a radio bearer in its associated radio access network.

15. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the radio access dependent information and the status information are signaled from the access adaptors to the access selector at time intervals and

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when there is a change in any of the QoS parameters associated with the radio access network.

16. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein a change in a QoS parameter is signaled by a layer 2 trigger or an access technology trigger.

17. (Previously presented) A method for scheduling access to an access network from a mobile user terminal, the method comprising:

signaling a service request and a QoS profile associated therewith from an application resident on the user terminal to an access selector being a network entity and provided separate from the user terminal;

the access selector comparing information in the QoS parameters contained in the QoS profile with status information received from access networks that are available to the user terminal;

the access selector storing the service request in the user terminal in case said comparison reveals there is no access network available that fulfils the QoS profile;

the access selector monitoring the status information received from available radio access networks; and

the access selector repeating the comparison step and instructing the application to execute when the comparison indicates an access network is available that fulfils the QoS profile.

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